



BANCROFT LIBRARY

14824

F793P1

S. SPITZ,

MANUFACTURER OF

Mexican * Filigree,

—IN—

Gold and Silver.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.

1884.

The Bancroft Library

No. 14824

14824

⊕

1

S. SPITZ,

THE JEWELER OF

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.

A FULL LINE OF

WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY, SILVERWARE,

At Wholesale and Retail.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.

DENVER, COLO.:
TRIBUNE PUBLISHING CO.

1884.

I Manufacture the following styles
of Goods at approximate prices,
as per Schedule:

GOLD—20 KARATS FINE.

LADIES' SETS, PIN AND DROPS.

Lily of Valley, - - - -	\$15 00 to \$18 00
Pansy, - - - - -	14 00 " 16 00
Buckle, - - - - -	14 00 " 16 00
Bow and Fringe, - - - -	15 00 " 18 00
Coquette, - - - - -	13 00 " 15 00
Fern Leaf, - - - - -	15 00 " 18 00
Fern Leaf and Rosette, - -	15 00 " 20 00
Wheat Sheaf, - - - - -	15 00 " 20 00
Round Rosette, - - - - -	14 00 " 16 00
Bar Rosette, - - - - -	10 00 " 15 00
Fuchsia, - - - - -	16 00 " 20 00
Moss Rose and Bud, - - - -	15 00 " 18 00
Moss Rose and Spiral Bud, -	15 00 " 18 00
Scotch Thistle, - - - - -	14 00 " 16 00
Oak Leaf Skeleton and Rosette,	15 00 " 18 00
Slipper, - - - - -	10 00 " 14 00
Guitar, - - - - -	10 00 " 14 00
Butterfly, - - - - -	15 00 " 18 00
Grapes and Stem, - - - - -	16 00 " 18 00

Pins alone, $\frac{2}{3}$ price; Drops, $\frac{1}{3}$ price.

BRACELETS.

Braided, per pair, - - -	\$38 00 to \$100 00
Woven Wire, per pair, - - -	25 00 " 75 00
Solid Work, per pair, - - -	30 00 " 75 00
Open Filigree, per pair, - - -	55 00 " 125 00

20-KARAT GOLD GOODS.

(CONTINUED.)

NECK CHAINS.

Braided, each,	- - - -	\$15 00	"	\$100 00
Woven Wire, each,	- - - -	6 00	"	75 00
Rope, each,	- - - -	25 00	"	100 00
International, each,	- - - -	50 00	"	150 00

GUARD CHAINS.

Braided, - - - - -	50 00	"	100 00
Rope, - - - - -	45 00	"	75 00
Woven Wire, - - - - -	30 00	"	75 00
International, - - - - -	100 00	"	300 00

HAIR ORNAMENTS.

Pansy, each, - - - - -	10 00	"	20 00
Head Wheat, each, - - - - -	15 00	"	20 00
Pansy, - - - - -	15 00	"	18 00

CROSSES.

Various Styles, each, - - -	3 00	"	25 00
-----------------------------	------	---	-------

RINGS.

Band, plain and fancy, - - -	8 00	"	15 00
Puzzle, plain and fancy, - - -	7 50	"	15 00
Scale Grape, - - - - -	8 00	"	12 00
Turquoise, - - - - -	10 00	"	35 00
Navahoe Garnet, - - - - -	8 50	"	20 00
Native Opal, - - - - -	12 00	"	25 00
Sleeve Buttons, per pair, - - -	10 00	"	30 00
Studs to match, per set, - - -	10 00	"	18 00
Scarf Pins, each, - - - - -	5 00	"	8 00

Native Stones cut and set up to order
in any designs.

STERLING SILVER WORK.

SETS OF PINS AND DROPS, same style as in Gold, except in much greater variety—Daisy included,				\$ 2 00 to \$ 5 00
Bracelets, various designs, per pair,	5 00	"	20 00	
Bangles, " " "	5 00	"	20 00	
Neck Chains, various designs, each,	5 00	"	15 00	
Neck Chains, Daisy patterns, "	6 00	"	12 00	
Hair Ornaments, Wheat, each, -	6 00	"	8 00	
Hair Ornaments—Pansy, Daisy, Lily, Fuchsia, etc, - - -	3 00	"	6 00	
Hair Ornaments—Butterfly, Sword, Ball, - - - - -	3 00	"	6 00	
Locket, all sizes and styles, -	1 00	"	5 00	
Crosses, " " - - -	50	"	5 00	
Combs, all sizes and styles, Ornamented Silver, - - -	7 50	"	30 00	
Combs, all sizes and styles, Marguerite, - - - - -	7 50	"	15 00	
Card Cases, all sizes and styles, in Morocco boxes, - - -	8 00	"	45 00	
Cigarette Cases, each, - - -	15 00	"	25 00	
Match Cases, each, - - -	5 00	"	8 00	
Boquet Holders, each, - - -	10 00	"	20 00	
Napkin Rings, - - - - -	5 00	"	15 00	
Puzzle Rings, finger, each, - -	2 50	"	4 00	
Scarf Pins, each, - - - -	1 00	"	3 00	
Sleeve Buttons, per pair, - - -	2 50	"	4 00	
Studs to match, per pair—sets of two, - - - - -	3 00	"	5 00	

Native work in any designs desired at reasonable prices, and satisfaction guaranteed.

Goods sent C. O. D. to any part of the United States, with privilege of examination. Send in your orders.

Respectfully,

S. SPITZ.

TO OUR PATRONS AND FRIENDS.

Owing to the many inquiries daily received regarding the process of manufacturing Filigree—from tourists visiting our Ancient City, we take pleasure in furnishing the following description from the pen of Ernest Ingersoll, published in Harper's Bazar, September, 1879.

FILIGREE JEWELRY.

An Interesting Mexican Manufacture

THE manufacture of Filigree Gold and Silver Jewelry probably originated among the Italians, was by them taught the Spaniards, and at the time of the conquest was brought over by the latter, and introduced to the Mexicans; Santa Fe, Chihuahua and the city of Mexico, probably being the principal points where it is manufactured. Until the time that American ingenuity and taste began to be apparent in this branch of art, the manufacture was very rude, the patterns simple and few—some say there were only three of these—and Filigree Jewelry was only odd and fantastic, there being little real beauty about the work. This has now all been changed, and while the jewelry is still fantastic in appearance, American skill has invented patterns which display much beauty, and when worked into form in gold or silver are attractive, tasteful and handsome ornaments. The articles manufactured are principally for the wear of females; breast-pins, scarf-pins, shawl-pins, combs, ear-rings, bracelets, finger-rings, and various pretty ornaments for the hair.

Although of late the manufacture has included a great variety of other articles, such as card-cases, cigarette cases, match-boxes, etc. In fact, the Mexican workmen, who have now the entire manufacture in their hands, claim that they can reproduce any pattern given them in gold or silver Filigree.

In Santa Fe the manufacture of this jewelry is becoming more important, and Filigree work is becoming in greater demand. Tourists invest in Mexican jewelry because in itself it is quaint and pretty, and is rarely seen in the East, and as *Souvenirs* of the Ancient City, they desire naturally to take away something which has an unmistakably native appearance. The gold used in manufacturing the jewelry is either from the Old Placers or the New Placers, twenty or thirty miles distant, and is generally bought from Mexicans who earn their living by panning out the dust from the washings on these properties. The silver comes generally from Silver City, the "76" mine of Bremen, near there, supplying the ore, and the smelting being done in that town. It is brought from there in a crude state, and refined in the shops where the jewelry is made.

THE WORK SHOP.

It may not be uninteresting to those who have seen Filigree Jewelry in its complete form, to examine for a moment the process by which the pretty designs are wrought out.

First, the gold and silver must be almost absolutely without alloy, as any combination of the baser metals tends to destroy the necessary ductility of the metal which is to be operated upon. The metal as it is required is melted in the shop, refined and then cast into flat bars. These bars or plates are then put through

7
rollers until they are reduced to the thickness of about one-eighth of an inch, and a foot or so long. Then, with shears, strips are cut off which are drawn through holes in an iron plate successively smaller until the strip becomes a wire of the necessary thickness. The smallest of these wires are of the thinness of fine sewing silk, but are perfect in roundness. The next step is the twisting of the wires together, which is now done by a lathe, this having been found easier and quicker, and more accurate than the old way of rolling the two wires under the hand on a board. The twisted wires are then passed through rollers, which turns them out into a very thin tape of metal, the edges being finely and regularly notched, the effect of the twisting.

The workman has now done with his metal wire for a minute, and lays it aside. A frame-work of thicker wire is made to receive the design he is about to manufacture, and this is placed flat upon the table. Into this frame he places divisions or compartments, and again takes up his wire. Near his hand is a block of wood, in which is embedded a row of small pins, or rather brass teeth, set very closely together. One end of the wire is then attached to the central peg, and the workman proceeds to wind his wire to the pegs, moving with each turn of the wire, one pin away from the centre in each direction. When he has continued this movement until he considers this coil of wire is sufficient for his purpose, he cuts the tape and slips it from the pins, having then a flat, oval coil of very fine metal wire, irregular on the surface with the notches of the edges. This coil the workman can manage as he pleases. He can lengthen it, broaden it, make it narrow, insert another piece of another de-

8
sign, and manipulate it to almost any extent, so flexible is the wire, without marring the appearance produced by the indentations of the edges. He then fits this coil into the frame-work, solders it there after fitting it with fine pinchers and nippers, and adds coil after coil, if more than one is needed, until the figure is completed.

The patterns worked into jewelry in Santa Fe are without number, numerous imitations of feather and scroll work and flowers being manufactured from the crude gold and silver. According to the taste of the customer, and his desire to incur expense, jewels are added to increase the brilliancy of the article. Not only is the whole work done without the aid of any machine, but on almost every piece of jewelry accurate measurement is required to proportion the work exactly, and this is all done by the eye merely, without the aid of rule, mould or die. The ornamentation is produced simply by bending or pressing the wire, no engraving, chiseling or inlaying appearing on any piece. The work, of course, requires time, and hence, Mexican jewelry is rather costly, though the prices asked in Santa Fe are smaller than one who has watched the tedious and careful process would expect.









